

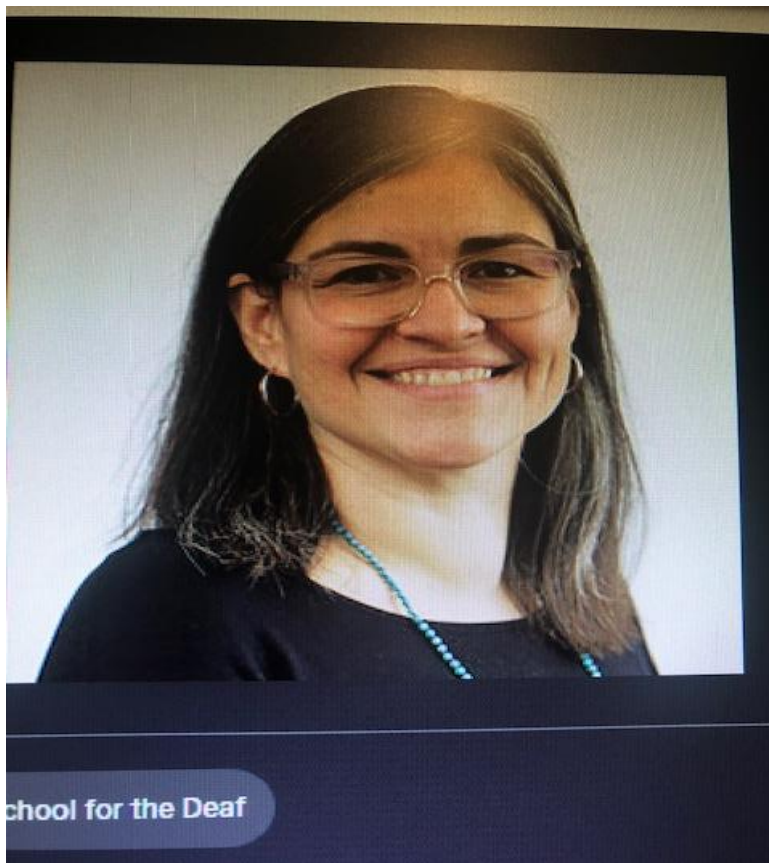
OAD President's Report on NAD's Virtual Biennial Conference

October 1 – 4, 2020

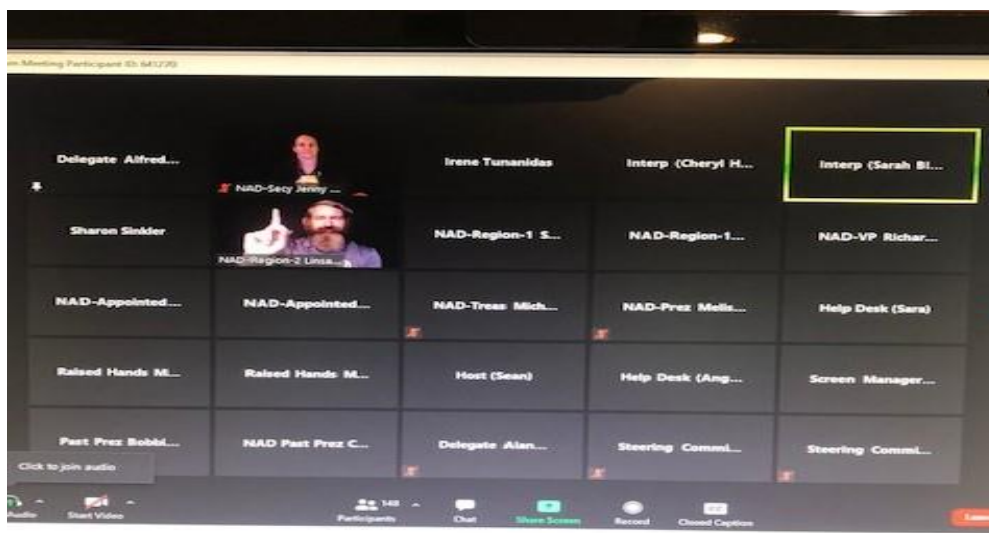
The National Association of the Deaf held its biennial conference from October 1-4, 2020. This was its first ever virtual conference, and it met with much success almost without interference.

About 137 official delegates from many state associations took part in NAD's Council of Representatives Meetings on a daily basis. NAD members had no access to its own Region's caucus meetings during the two nights because this was reserved for the delegates only.

The virtual conference began with a friendly greeting by Melissa Draganac-Hawk, NAD President. Delegates' and members' faces on the screen were blacked out. However; (with written permission made prior to the conference) delegates' faces were shown after sending in a written question / comment to make their point on motions / issues.



Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, Philadelphia, Melissa Draganac-Hawk, employee, and current NAD President



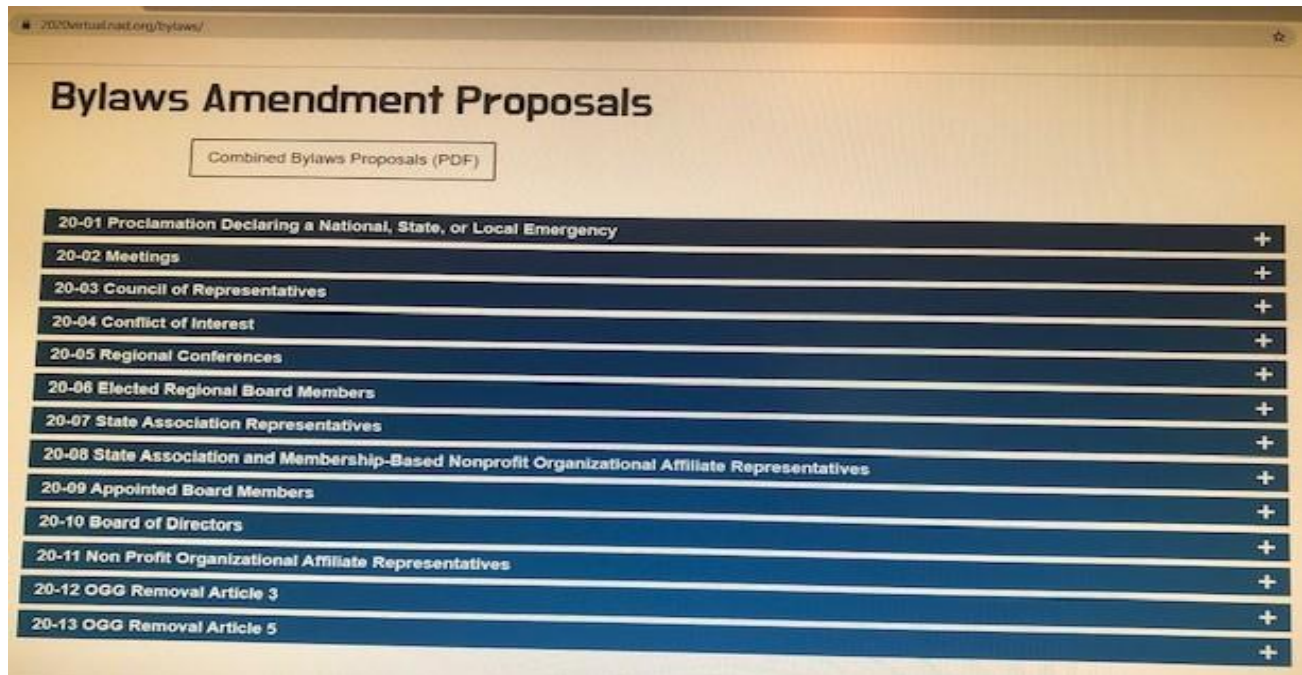
Ohio is one of the 13 states under NAD Region II. Other state associations are found under NAD Region II on NAD's website: www.nad.org Click on "MEMBERS" and enter state affiliates.

Our NAD Region II Representatives are Linsay Darnall, Jr., (Nebraska), Senior Representative, (shown in photo above) and Kevin Ryan, (Illinois), Junior Representative (bottom). Their job is to communicate with state association officers through its monthly virtual meetings which I took part during my past term as OAD Vice-President.

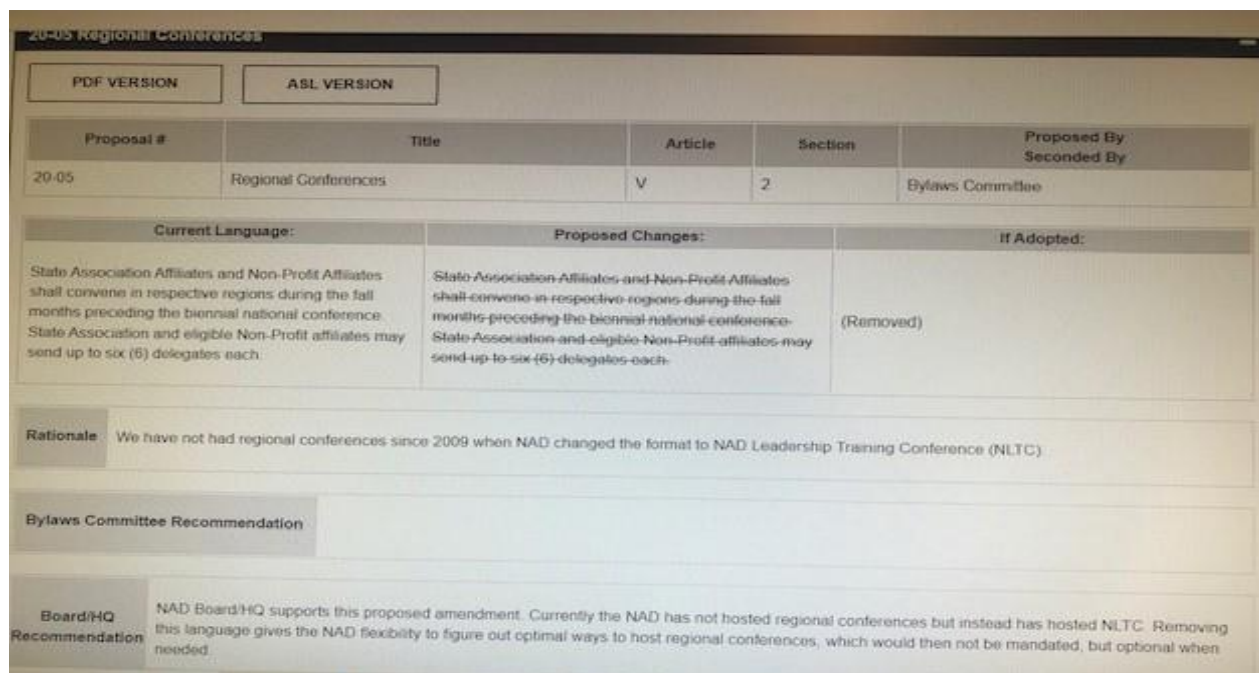


Photo from above: Kevin Ryan is on the right (with glasses).

The first meeting of the virtual conference was a long one. Discussion was focused on NAD's proposed By-Laws for 2020-2022. (screenshot here)



Here is one of the proposed by laws (20-05) regarding NAD Region Conferences.



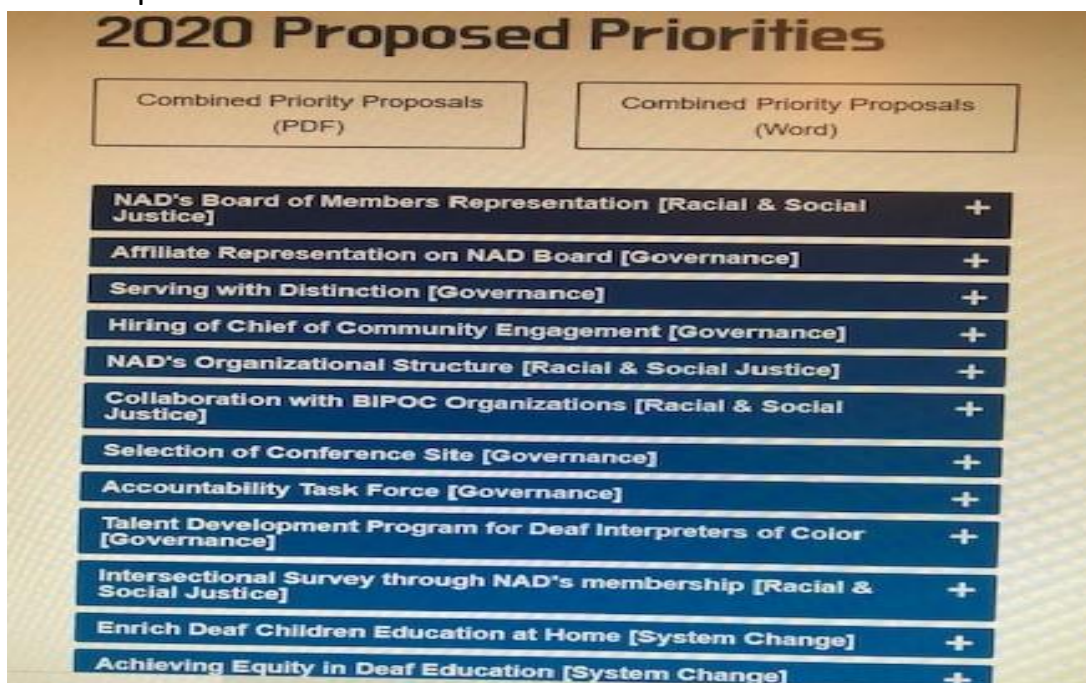
During the second day of the biennial conference, the NAD Board encouraged state association officers to empower members of their associations by encouraging them to take part in committee work to demonstrate leadership capabilities. In addition to this, delegates were encouraged to submit input for site selection for NAD's future biennial conferences. A few delegates argued that some state associations are struggling with the finances which may explain that they are not ready to host a national conference.

NAD shared with delegates / members its new affiliates for business venture: JP Morgan; NTID; AT&T; SPRINT; TRACFONE, AIRBURB; YOU TUBE.

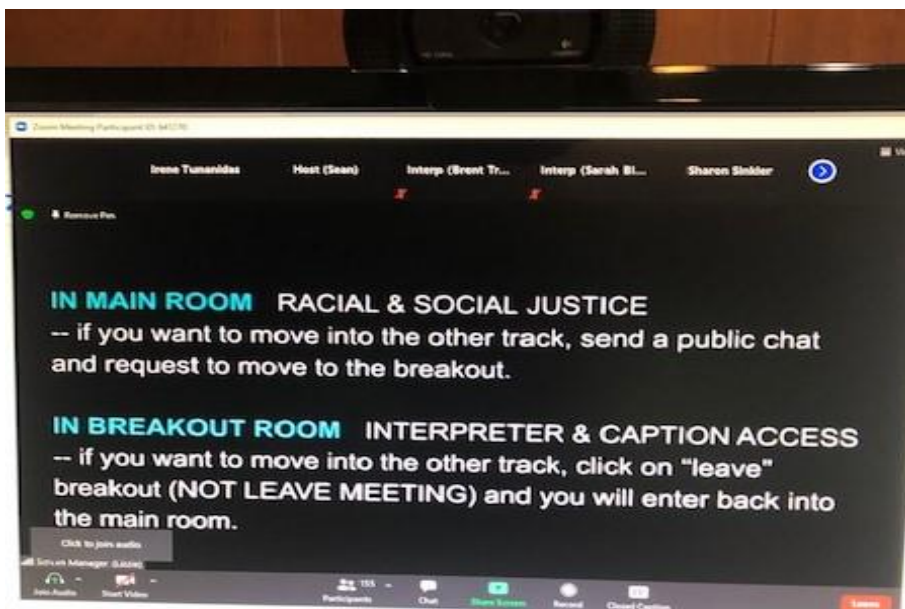
NAD set up its 7-member Accountability Task Force Committee to focus on availability of testing for interpreter assurance and will address other concerns, and one of them; interpreter access for the President's daily TV briefings on CORNAVIRUS issues.

On Friday, October 2, 2020, I participated in a forum on GOVERNANCE. I was 30 minutes late for the seminar because I was not able to get the pass code for the ZOOM NUMBER. Atty. Howard Rosenblum, NAD's CEO, resolved my issue this issue in timely manner.

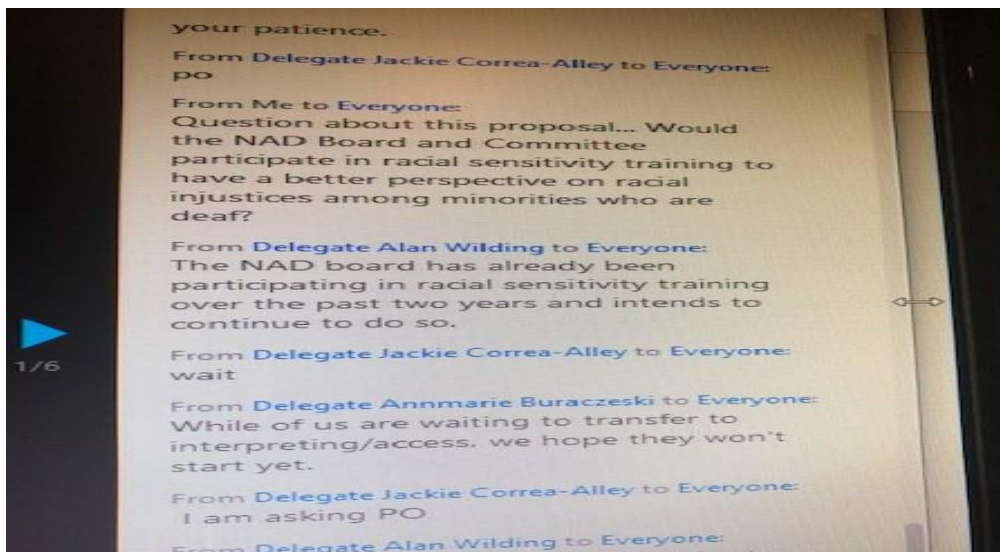
I realized that the forum on GOVERNANCE I took part on Friday had nothing to do with information-sharing but a list of priorities submitted by the delegates months before the biennial conference. All proposals were discussed and only four top ones were chosen. One new proposal is state association officer chosen as an affiliate of the NAD Board: Here is the list of the 2020 priorities:



On Saturday, October 4, 2020, I took part in another seminar on Racial and Social Justice. More delegates chose this topic than the other one.



A few delegates were not comfortable with the hot issues from the racial / social seminar and asked to be transferred to interpreter-caption access. I can understand why. This had to do with gender issues, not a favorite of the heterosexual individuals.



My question (shown above): "Would the NAD Board and Committee participate in racial sensitivity training to have a better perspective on racial injustices among minorities who are deaf?" NAD President Melissa answered my question. (Yes, they did).

I stayed with what I signed up for, to glean new information on new developments in the Deaf Gay community. As a heterosexual individual, I went through experience in San Francisco's Gay Community when I was a graduate student at the University of San Francisco in 1982.

In August 1983 I enrolled as a full-time graduate student in the Counseling Program at California State University, Sacramento. In one Counseling class all graduate students were required to do an assignment in the Gay Community. I did not want to take a huge risk due to new health reports on AIDS which mostly affected gay men. The late Dr. Jim Saum, my professor and mentor, helped me with gay community resources. My first visit was the Gay Community Church on the 34th Street in Sacramento and it was an eye-opening experience for me! To my surprise, I got an A+ on my three-page report.

Here are my proposal choices from the Racial / Social Justice Seminar:

My choices here:

The image shows a screenshot of a Google Form titled "Please pick your top 4 proposed priorities". The form lists seven options, each with a checkbox to its right. The checkboxes for "NAD's Organizational Structure", "Eugenics and Eradication of Deaf People", "Dismantling Racism in the Deaf Community", and "Addressing the Justice System and Law Enforcement" are checked. A purple "Submit" button is at the bottom left. At the bottom of the form, it says "Never submit passwords through Google Forms." and "This form was created inside of National Association of the Deaf. Report Abuse".

Proposed Priority	My top 4 picks
NAD's Board of Members Representation	<input type="checkbox"/>
NAD's Organizational Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Collaboration with BIPOC Organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intersectional Survey through NAD's membership	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eugenics and Eradication of Deaf People	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dismantling Racism in the Deaf Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Addressing the Justice System and Law Enforcement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Delegates' choices: Four top topics are: NAD's Organizational Structure, Collaboration with BIPOC Organizations; Eugenics and Eradication of Deaf People and Dismantling Racism in the Deaf Community. Passed by the delegates and NAD affiliates. Passed by the NAD Board also.

New Officers of the NAD for 2020-2022 are as follows:

President: Melissa Draganac-Hawk, by acclamation

Vice-President: Amy Gomez (new)

Secretary: Jennifer Buechner by acclamation

Treasurer: Michele Cline, by acclamation

Respectfully submitted by:

Irene Tunanidas

President, Ohio Association of the Deaf

October 14, 2020